

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02  
INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 EB-08 TRSE-00  
OMB-01 /090 W

-----081789 221025Z /11

O 220945Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 795 IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1651

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: INTERNAL SETTLEMENT

REF: PRETORIA 1630

1. MARCH 22 PRESS REPORTS THAT AFTER SWEARING-IN CEREMONY (REFTEL), NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WENT INTO ITS FIRST MEETING AND "LOCKED IN DEBATE" OVER THE QUESTIONS OF ALLOCATING MINISTRIES TO THE DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS. REPORTEDLY THE PORTFOLIOS OF DEFENSE, LAW AND ORDER AND FINANCE WERE THE CONTENTIOUS ONES, WITH SITHOLE CLAIMING THAT HIS NOMINEE MUST HAVE DEFENSE BECAUSE HE HAS THE BEST CONTACT WITH THE  
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QUERRILLAS AND WOULD NOT OTHERWISE BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE THEM TO STOP FIGHTING.

2. ON YESTERDAY'S SWEARING-IN CEREMONY, PRESS ACCOUNTS SAY THAT ORIGINALLY THE OATH WAS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY RHODESIAN PRESIDENT JOHN SRATHALL BUT THE NATIONALIST LEADERS OBJECTED, AS HE WAS A RHODESIAN FRONT APPOINTEE TO THAT

POSITION, AND INSISTED ON THE NEUTRAL BISHOP MURINDAGOMO. THE OATH WAS TAKEN TO RHODESIA, NOT ZIMBABWE, AND MUZOREWA TOLD THE PRESS HE FELT "A BIT UNEASY" SWEARING TO AN ILLEGAL REGIME. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SOMETIMES "YOU HAVE TO SWALLOW YOUR PRIDE TO ACHIEVE THE HIGHEST GOOD."

3. MEANWHILE, SMITH GAVE AN INTERVIEW JUST PRIOR TO THE CEREMONY TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN DAILY THE CITIZEN, IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY. SMITH CLAIMED THAT WHITE RHODESIANS WERE NO LONGER LEAVING AND, IN FACT, MANY WERE BEGINNING TO RETURN. HE ALSO AGREED WITH HIS INTERVIEWER THAT THE OUTLOOK FOR RENEWED INVESTMENT WAS GOOD, PARTICULARLY FROM THE UNITED STATES. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE DISMANTLING OF CERTAIN ARMED FORCES UNITS, SMITH REPLIED "I KNOW OF NO PLAN TO DISMANTLE ANY OF OUR SECURITY FORCES." FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM. BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REFORM, CABINET, MEETINGS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014